

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

State and Tribal Response Program Highlights



EPA Funding Provided to States and Tribes to Address Contaminated Land in their Communities

REGION 1

PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION – The Penobscot Indian Nation Department of Natural Resources (PIN/DNR) provides comprehensive natural resource management and environmental protection services for the tribe's 130,000 acres of land. Programs administered by PIN/DNR include Forest Management (i.e., timber sales administration, forest mapping and inventory, timber stand improvement), Water Resources Management, Air Quality Protection, Fish and Wildlife Management, Geographic Information System services, and Conservation Law Enforcement. While PIN/DNR is funded by a variety of federal and tribal funding sources, the addition of Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program funding expands the Department's scope of work to include management and restoration of contaminated sites within tribal lands. PIN/DNR is using its Section 128(a) funding to continue the development of an inventory of potential brownfield properties, and strengthen Penobscot Nation's capacity to respond to contaminated sites within tribal lands.

REGION 2

VIRGIN ISLANDS – To operate and expand its brownfields program, the Virgin Islands (VI) continue to make progress to establish a Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP), which will address the cleanup and/or redevelopment of brownfield sites within the VI. The VCP will be designed to return brownfield sites to useable condition. Cleanup will be performed under a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Planning and Natural Resources-Division of Environmental Protection (DPNR-DEP) and the participant. Following the enactment of the VI Brownfield Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act in 2008, the program is finalizing the signatures for the promulgation of its final drafted rules and regulations. DPNR-DEP used its Section 128(a) Response Program funding to inventory 141 sites and assess 20. Currently, the program is seeking a professional services contractor to assist the division with conducting Phase I assessments.

REGION 3

WEST VIRGINIA – In April 2012, the Monongalia County Commission received a Certification of Completion through the West Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program for the former Quality Glass property in Morgantown. The Mon River Trails Conservancy is interested in utilizing a portion of the property for parking for their trail head, and the Town of Star City is interested in purchasing the property for parking and access to the Monongahela River. The West Virginia

Department of Environmental Protection used 128(a) funding to perform the initial site assessment, enabling the County Commission to bring the property into the state's Voluntary Remediation Program. The Mon River Trails Conservancy recently received a grant from the West Virginia Division of Highways Recreational Trails Program to purchase trail maintenance equipment. The Conservancy has plans to connect this section of the trail to an area-wide trail system in the future.

REGION 4

GEORGIA – Groundbreaking took place on March 15, 2012 for a new brownfields redevelopment project in the Vine City neighborhood in southwest Atlanta. Located within the Historic Westside Village, this is a major redevelopment project that aims to revitalize the struggling community surrounding the Atlanta University Center. The property once housed two out-of-service gas stations that released petroleum into the environment. After the Georgia Department of Natural Resources used Section 128(a) Response Program funding to oversee the completion of assessment and cleanup activities, the property was redeveloped into a new 74,000-square-foot Walmart retail store that will provide area residents and students access to goods and services not easily found in the area. Vine City has been considered a "food desert" since its only grocery store closed in 2008. The new Walmart will contain a grocery store offering fresh produce, as well as a pharmacy and a money center. The new Walmart is also expected to bring 250 new jobs to the community and will likely spark additional economic activity.

REGION 5

ONEIDA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF WISCONSIN – The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin has been developing a sustainable Tribal Environmental Response Program using its Section 128(a) funding. One tangible result of this effort was the adoption of a Tribal Environmental Response Law (Law) on September 12, 2012. This action will allow additional development of the program and provide a roadmap for response actions. In addition to the passage of the Law, the tribe also completed 25 assessments on tribally-owned homes for lead and asbestos, issued a "No Further Assessment Required" letter for de-minimus release from an underground storage tank site by using EPA's online tool for calculating soil screening levels (http://rais.ornl.gov/calc_start.shtml), and provided 356 hours of training and staff development to Oneida Tribal employees.

REGION 6

ARKANSAS – The Former Martindale Clinic located at 114 South Main Street in Hope housed a medical clinic and pharmacy from 1951 until 1978 when the owner/operator abandoned the business. Most of the clinic and pharmacy equipment and medical supplies, including chemicals, were left behind. The City of Hope entered the property into the Arkansas Brownfields Program in 2005 and in March 2006 the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) (a Section 128(a) Response Program grantee) issued an emergency order for removal of the hazardous wastes and hazardous substances at the site. Following the emergency order, a Targeted Brownfield Assessment provided by the ADEQ Brownfields Program was conducted on the property. The assessment determined the waste types of concern remaining onsite were asbestos-containing material, regulated asbestos-containing material, lead-based paint (LBP), and lead containing dust from deteriorated LBP. The City of Hope applied for and received a sub-grant award from the Arkansas Brownfields Revolving Loan fund for removal and disposal of asbestos and lead based paint. The site was issued a Certificate of Completion in June 2011. The City of Hope is currently redeveloping the property for use as a free medical clinic that will provide a beneficial use for the citizens of Hope and the surrounding area.

REGION 7

SAC AND FOX NATION OF MISSOURI IN KANSAS AND NEBRASKA – The Sac and Fox Nation's Tribal Response Program developed several outreach items over the summer of 2012 using Section 128(a) Response Program funds. The tribal response coordinator, with the help from other environmental department staff, produced a spill kit safety video. The short film reviews what is included in the 95-gallon HAZARD spill kit—used to contain fuel and other hazardous spills—the purpose of each item, and a demonstration of how to contain a spill, clean it up, and dispose of waste properly. This video is intended to assist all new employees at the two truck stops on the reservation as part of their training. The department also created a video on what makes a good home emergency kit. Other outreach products developed over the summer include a tribal response program newsletter and brochure to help disseminate information about the department's abilities and what is available to initiate more community involvement for ongoing and future projects.

REGION 8

CHIPPEWA CREE – Chippewa Cree's Tribal Water Resources Department, a Section 128(a) Response Program grantee, and its Brownfields Coordinator assisted EPA's Environmental Response Team in responding to a major spill of unleaded gasoline at the Agency Pastime Gas Station in summer 2012. After the initial report of the spill on May 21, 2012, it took time to investigate and discover the source of the spill, which turned out to be a leak from an above ground storage tank that flowed downward through the soil to surface in the Sundance Creek drainage. EPA and the tribe oversaw the rerouting of the creek, the removal of tanks, dispensers and contaminated soils, and the restoration of the site. The building was demolished to access contaminated soils. Monitoring is ongoing and access is restricted, however, the site is expected to be ready for reuse by summer 2013. The tribe is currently polling the public on ideas for reuse.



Excavation of a fuel contaminated hillside near Sundance Creek.



Formerly contaminated area at the top of the slope near the Agency Pastime Gas Station.

REGION 9

NEVADA – The Nevada Section 128(a) Brownfields Program has worked closely with the Town of Tonopah to renovate its existing Visitor and Convention Center facility and to expand the town's facilities by restoring the rundown and vacant Belvada Hotel. Constructed in 1906, the five-story Belvada Hotel is located less than a block away from the Convention Center and has been used as a bank, convenience store, numerous retail shops, and apartments. Vacant for the last 25 years, ownership has fallen to the town through donation and the plan is to move the Visitors and Convention Center offices, the town library, and other municipal offices into this handsome building once it is fully restored. The town sought help in providing Phase I and Phase II assessments for the Belvada property prior to its acquisition and received over \$13,000 from state's Brownfields Program to perform this work. The assessments identified lead-based paint, asbestos-containing materials, and petroleum contamination on the dirt floor of the basement as recognized environmental concerns. The town also received \$245,000 from the Nevada Section 128(a) Brownfields Program to clean up most of the contamination; this work was completed in June 2012. The town used the Brownfields Program funding to leverage \$389,000 of its own funds, \$250,000 in a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Economic Development grant, and over \$1.4 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant funding to assure completion of the restoration project.



Lead-based paint sampling at the Belvada Hotel (left); The hotel prior to cleanup (right).

REGION 10

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA – The Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's (CCTHITA) Tribal Response Program is developing capacity and understanding of tribal responsibilities as they relate to the health and environmental conditions on lands with tribal interests. The addition of the Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program funding has allowed the tribe to identify sites and establish various collaborative efforts that make Alaska brownfields work unique and dependent to situational and geographical area. CCTHITA is focusing its Section 128(a) Tribal Response Program funding on developing an inventory of properties and a Public Record, obtaining technical training for staff members, and conducting outreach and education to engage the community in environmental and brownfields awareness and issues. The tribe created and developed an Environmental Youth Leadership Team with a focus on gathering traditional, historical knowledge, and western science.